



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE deports man wanted in Mexico for killing a police officer

CHICAGO — A 38-year-old man wanted in Mexico for allegedly murdering a police officer was turned over to Mexican authorities today by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers to face criminal charges there.

Hector Cepeda-Vargas, a Mexican citizen, was placed on a government flight from Chicago to El Paso, Texas, on Friday. He was turned over to Mexican authorities this morning and taken into custody.



Cepeda-Vargas had fled Mexico and was living in Watertown, Wis., under an assumed identity. Cepeda-Vargas, using the alias Daniel de Dioz-Lopez, admitted to entering the U.S. illegally and purchasing a fake birth certificate and social security card in Colorado. At the time of his arrest he was working at Quality Feed in Dousman, Wis.

Cepeda-Vargas is wanted by Mexican authorities for the murder of Magdaleno Avitia-Barraza, a police officer in the town of Santa María del Oro in the state of Durango, Mexico. Durango issued an arrest warrant for Cepeda-Vargas in October 2002.

Mexican authorities first contacted the Chicago FBI office with information that Cepeda-Vargas was possibly residing in the Chicago area. Working on a tip, the FBI office in Madison, Wis., tracked Cepeda-Vargas to the Watertown area. ICE and FBI agents, with the assistance of the Watertown Police Department, arrested Cepeda-Vargas March 13 without incident.

“This arrest is an excellent example of how a unified approach to law enforcement works internationally,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of the Chicago ICE office. “ICE agents remain committed to ridding our communities of violent criminals who threaten the public safety and have no right to remain in this country.”

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.